

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS STATE 179572

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT:NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES EDIT SEPT. 10:

QUOTE: SIX WEEKS AGO A SENIOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL IN NEW DELHI CALLED IN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE AMERICAN PRESS TO DECLARE,"WE ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE  
OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES." HE ADDED, "THERE  
IS NO ANGER OR IRRITATION ON OUR PART."

IT WAS AN UNUSUAL GESTURE AND A WELCOME ONE, NOT LEAST  
BECAUSE IT SUGGESTED THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION--  
WORKING THROUGH AMBASSADOR DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN--WAS  
ACHIEVING SOME SUCCESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO CONVINCE INDIA'S  
LEADERS THAT WASHINGTON WANTED AN END TO THE TENSIONS  
AND ANIMOSITIES BORN OF ITS UNDISGUISED PARTISANSHIP  
FOR PAKISTAN IN THE WAR ON THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT TWO  
YEARS AGO.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE OPTIMISM STIRRED BY THAT EARLIER  
OVERTURE HAS NOW BEEN COUNTERACTED BY NEWLY ANNOUNCED  
DECISIONS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. THESE CAN ONLY BE  
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VIEWED AS GRATUITOUS SLAPS AT THE UNITED STATES, CALCU-

LATED TO SLOW THE DIFFICULT TASK OF INDIAN-AMERICAN

RAPPROCHEMENT. THE INDIANS PLAN TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SENIOR AMERICAN SCHOLARS ADMITTED ANNUALLY TO DO RESEARCH IN THEIR COUNTRY TO TWENTY, AND THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN GRADUATE STUDENTS ALLOWED TO STUDY IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES WILL ALSO BE SHARPLY LIMITED.

THESE MOVES ARE PARTICULARLY BIZARRE BECAUSE, EVEN BEFORE THE CUTS, THERE ARE ONLY 500 TO 600 AMERICAN SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS WORKING IN INDIA ANNUALLY, AS AGAINST THE 11,000 INDIAN STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES--THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF FOREIGNERS STUDYING HERE.

THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THIS SHORTSIGHTED DECISION WILL BE TO INFLICT SERIOUS DAMAGE ON A SCHOLARLY INTERCHANGE THAT HAS BEEN OF GREAT VALUE TO BOTH COUNTRIES. NO LESS SERIOUS WILL BE THE RENEWED SKEPTICISM MANY AMERICANS WILL FEEL ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF NEW DELHI'S RECENT PROTESTATIONS OF A DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. UNQUOTE. RUSH

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